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Message Text

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NEA - MR. ATHERTON (DRAFT)
EUR/ CE - MR. FLATIN
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R 090043 Z JUN 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 111895

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, AU
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL ON MIDDLE EAST
REF: (A) VIENNA 4655 (B) STATE 103104

1. DEPT REGRETS AUSTRIAN OVER- INTERPRETATION OF PHRASE IN ACTING SECRETARY' S REPLY TO THEIR PROPOSAL FOR " OPERATIONAL CALENDAR" AND CONCURS IN AMB. POPPER' S RESPONSE. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS MAY BE HELPFUL IF YOU BELIEVE FURTHER EXPLANATION OF OUR RESPONSE TO BE IN ORDER.

2. PENULTIMATE PARAGRAPH OF US REPLY (REFTEL B) SOUGHT TO COPE WITH CERTAIN AMBIGUITY IN AUSTRIAN PROPOSALS AS TO MEANS BY WHICH SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD CONVEY SUGGESTION FOR OPERATIONAL CALENDAR TO JARRING AND/ OR PARTIES. IN ADDITION IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER " SERIES OF MUTUAL CONCESSIONS" WOULD BE DEVISED BY SECURITY COUNCIL, BY JARRING IN CONSULTATION WITH PARTIES, OR BY PARTIES
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THEMSELVES.

3. PROCEDURES WHICH PARTIES INTERPRET AS BEING IMPOSED WILL SIMPLY NOT BE EFFECTIVE IN OUR VIEW. AS WE SEE IT, PARTIES THEMSELVES MUST PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS (THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY IN FACE TO FACE NEGOTIATIONS) IF AGREEMENTS REACHED ARE TO LAST. THEREFORE IF AUSTRIANS ARE PROPOSING THAT JARRING, IN CONSULTATIONS WITH PARTIES, SEEK TO HAVE PARTIES THEMSELVES WORK OUT AND AGREE ON A TIMETABLE OF MUTUAL CONCESSIONS, THIS IS FOR JARRING TO DECIDE, BUT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH OUR CONCEPT OF HOW SETTLEMENT SHOULD BE ARRIVED AT, AND WE WOULD SEE SOME MERIT IN IT. WE MUST NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT SUCH TIMETABLE WOULD HAVE TO ENCOMPASS THOSE ISSUES WHICH HAVE SO FAR PROVEN INTRACTABLE. AS LETTER CONCLUDED, US PREPARED TO CONSULT FURTHER WITH AUSTRIANS IN NEW YORK TO OBTAIN BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PROPOSAL.

4. US REPLY REFLECTS OUR VIEWS OF REALITIES OF MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL/ NEGOTIATING SITUATION AND WE REGRET IF PHRASE IN QUESTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN INTERPRETED AS APPLYING TO US ATTITUDES TOWARDS UN OR SECURITY COUNCIL IN GENERAL. WE RECOGNIZE SC UNDER CHARTER MAY MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PARTIES; THE IMPORTANT POINT IS THAT THERE ARE CASES SUCH AS ARAB- ISRAEL DISPUTE (AND RECENT PANAMA MEETINGS RE CANAL ZONE) WHERE SUCH EFFORTS CAN DO A GREAT DEAL MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

5. WE APPRECIATE IMPORTANCE OF UN TO AUSTRIA AND IN PARTICULAR WELCOME ITS CONSTRUCTIVE AND HELPFUL ATTITUDE AS MEMBER OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL. WE TRUST THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT OUR BASIC POSITION. IN WORDS OF PRESIDENT NIXON' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT, US REMAINS COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING WORLD ORGANIZATION AS A DYNAMIC INSTRUMENT FOR CONSTRUCTIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION AND A MORE EFFECTIVE UN CONTINUES TO BE AN IMPORTANT GOAL OF OUR DIPLOMACY. RUSH

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